

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, from our nation's earliest beginnings, America has inspired the hopes and dreams of countless individuals from around the world who have come to share in our gifts of freedom, justice, and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, throughout our history, America has welcomed millions of Irish immigrants to its shores, many coming to escape religious, social, and political discrimination in their homeland, as well as the specter of starvation and disease brought on by the Great Hunger in the 1840s; and

WHEREAS, through their strong spirit and character, these immigrants made lives for themselves and their families, drawing on the hope and perseverance of their Irish heritage to succeed in a new land; and

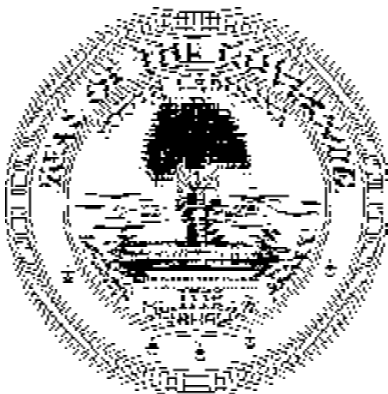
WHEREAS, Americans of Irish descent have played a vital role in shaping our history and culture, exploring our frontiers, building many of our bridges, canals, and railroads, fortifying our democracy through their proud record of public service, and serving with distinction in every American conflict; and

WHEREAS, Irish American Heritage Month celebrates the contributions of these talented and industrious citizens and recognizes their rich legacy of ingenuity, creativity, and achievement.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2004 as

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to celebrate the accomplishments of Irish Americans in the Palmetto State.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA